The Famous and Renowned

HISTORY

Of the LIFE and Glorious ACTIONS

Of the Mighty

Hercules of Greece:

His Encountring, and Overcoming Serpents, Lions, Monsters, Giants, Tyrants and Powerful Armies: His Taking of Cities, Towns, Kings, and Kingdoms &c. With many Rare and Extraordinary Adventures, and Exploits, Wonderful and Amazing. Also the manner of his Unfortunate Death. Being the most Excellent of HISTORIES

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The Famous and Renowned HISTORY of the Life and Glorious Actions of the Mighty *Hercules* of *Greece*, &c.

CHAP. I.

An Account of the Parentage, Begetting and Birth of the Famous and Renowned Hercules.

THE Renowned and Victorious *Hercules*, whose Fame and matchless Deeds in Arms and vertuous Exploits, has long since spread his Name and Fame throughout the World, and made him the Subject of many Discourses, is held by Authors and Poets to be the Son of *Jupiter*, whom the Antients held for a God, and *Alcmena* the Wife of *Amphytrion*: And thus we find it Recorded, That after *Jupiter* had obtained many great Victories in *Greece*, and other Places, subduing many Realms, bringing Tyrants and Monsters to yield to the Puissance of his Arms; coming to *Thebes*, then a Capital City in *Greece*, and beholding the incomparable Beauties of *Alcmena*, he fell desperately in Love with her, and could not rest till he had enjoyed her: Many ways he cast in his Mind to bring his Design about, as fearing the Jealousie of the Husband, and the Disdain of the Wife, if he should too boldly appear in the Business. However being great in Credit with King *Creon*, who governed the City, he went with an Army to besiege *Thebiopoli*, in which *Amphytrion* had a Command, and had such good Fortune, that he brought that City in Subjection to King *Creon*: But his Love to the fair Lady still running in his Mind, he secretly left the Army, with only *Ganymedes*, who attended him; and coming to the Castle where she remained, attended in the most splendid manner, he changed himself, by the Art of his Magick, into the shape of her Husband, so that she perceived not the Defraud, and by that means enjoyed the most beautiful Lady in the World, who thought she had all the while her own Husband in her Arms; inchanting likewise all the Servants, and casting them into a dead Sleep, for Three Days, setting *Ganymedes* Centinel at the Gate, with a Command, That if *Amphytrion* approached by Day, he should cast a Powder he gave him at the same

tima into the Air, and all should become suddenly dark, so that he should not find his way till he had his Fill of Love: And so it proved; for at the end of three Days, *Amphytrion* coming he withdrew, leaving the Lady in so sound a Sleep, that when her Husband came to Bed to her, she thought all that had passed before, proceeded from the Effects of a pleasant dream, and the Servants imagin'd they had slept but one Night.

After this Love, and the Departure of *Jupiter* and *Ganymedes*, she grew big of Twins, as it soon appeared, and great was the Joy of her Husband: But this coming to the Knowledge of *Juno*, the Wife of *Jupiter*, she remembred how she had heard her Husband praise the Beauty of *Alcmena*, she immediately contrived to destroy the Birth in the Womb, by Sorcery and Magick; but failing in that, and hearing she was safely delivered; after much hard Pain she had made her endure of two Children: The one of these was of large Limbs, very fair, and of a manly Proportion, being the first born, and was call'd *Hercules*, the Subject of this History; the other weak and sickly, and he was named *Ypecheus*: The first held to be the Son of *Amphytrion*, by After-Enjoyments. And great Rejoycing and Feasting were had upon these Births.

CHAP. II.

How Juno *would have destroyed* Hercules, *and how he strangled Two Serpents in his Cradle that had killed his Brother; and of the mighty Strength he had in his Youth.*

JUno growing enraged, as inspired with Jealousie, that what she had done took no Effect, resolved not to give it over, but procuring two great deadly Serpents, got privately into the Castle, or Palace of *Areiancy*, where the Children were nursed; and when their Mother and the Nurses were gone from them, leaving only a Lamp burning, as is the manner of the Greeks, she put in those venomous Creatures, who soon killed *Ypecheus*, weak and unable to resist their Force; but mounting the Cradle of *Hercules*, it proved otherwise; for with an unexpected Strength, breaking his Swadling Bands, he put them back by force, many times: but they, thirsty of his Blood, came on with fierce Assaults; whereupon catching one in each Hand by the Neck, he grasped them so hard, that he strangled them; whereat giving a loud Cry, the Nurses and others came running in, and were amazed at what they beheld, greatly marvelling at the Adventure. But this sufficed not the persecuting *Juno*; for when *Hercules* was carried to the Temple of *Mars* at *Athens*, and every body applauded his Victory over the Serpents, she secretly spread it among the People, that he could

could be no other but the Son of King *Jupiter*, having all his Likeneſs and Lineaments: Which coming to the Ears of *Amphytrion*, he grew jealous of his Wife, and could not endure the ſight of *Hercules*, but entreated King *Euriſteous* to take him, and bring him up out of his ſight.

Hercules growing up in the Court of King *Euriſteous*, was admired by all for his comely Perſonage, largeneſs of Limbs, and more for his Strength; yet he gave himſelf over to Hardſhip, and all manner of noble Exerciſe: which ſo well pleaſed the King, that he cauſed his Son *Theſeus* to be brought up with him; and they continued as Brothers ever afterwards: He carrying away the Prize in the Wreſtling-Games, Running, Shooting, and other Exerciſe; ſo that at Sixteen Years of Age no Man could out-do him. And having in a general Aſſembly of Princes, and all ſorts of People, behaved himſelf to Admiration, *Megara*, Daughter to King *Creon*, then a Spectator of his manly Actions, an amiable Perſon, fell deſperately in Love with him, having her Eyes always upon him; which made him ſhew his Valour the more, to the Coſt and Diſgrace of thoſe that contended with him; and he beholding her excellent Beauty, and rich Perfections, ſet out by Art and Nature, had his Heart on a ſudden ſmitten, and pierced with the Dart of Love, that he found himſelf all on a Flame.

Whilſt theſe things paſſed, his Fame and Praiſes grew every Day louder and louder, inſomuch that the People cryed he was neither the Son of *Amphytrion*, nor of *Jupiter*, but of the God of Nature, who had endued him with a double Force, which no Man might ſtand againſt; and in this manner, and many other valorous Accounts, he in his Youth ſet forth his Renown in *Greece*, inſtituting the Games, in Honour of the Princely Paſtimes, called *Olympiades*, from the Mount *Olympius*, from which were afterward dated their Writings, as amongſt us, by the Year of our Lord, *&c.*

CHAP. III.

How Hercules *fell in Love with the fair Princeſs* Megara, *and Conquered Two mighty Giants, with the Iſland of* Hyſperia, *and the Golden Sheep, and reſcued the King of* Troy's *Daughter, by killing a mighty Sea-Monſter.*

HErcules burning in Love towards the fair Princeſs *Megara*, whilſt he was in the Court of *Athens*, with *Euriſteous* his Foſter-Father, and other Kings and Lords, there arrived there certain Sea-faring Men cloathed in curious woollen Garments, ſuch as had not been ſeen before in *Greece*, and being demanded of what Country they were, and where they had them, their Reply was, That they were of *Hyſperia*, the moſt pleaſanteſt Country in the World for all things

neceſſary

neceſſary to the uſe and benefit of Mankind, and that near it, one *Philotes*, Son-in law to *Atlas*, and King of an Iſland, kept a great number of Sheep, whoſe Fleſh was very delicious, and of whoſe Wool their Garments were made, but that they were ſtrictly guarded, and not to be had, but at the Price of much Gold, or by Conqueſt.

The Strangers were no ſooner diſmiſſed, but *Euriſteous* began to wiſh that he had ſome of thoſe Sheep to breed in *Greece*, though he gave the weight of them in Gold: hereupon *Hercules*, then preſent, declared (notwithſtanding he had heard from the Strangers, that this *Philotes*, was a dreadful Giant, and by his Strength had driven out the Inhabitants, and poſſeſſed himſelf of the Sheep, ſwearing never to bear Arms, if he could find any Man in the World ſtronger than himſelf, whilſt that Party lived) That he would go and fetch ſome of thoſe Sheep without any Price, or periſh in the Attempt; and though the Kings and Princes laboured many ways to diſſwade him from ſo hazardous an Enterprize, he ſhewed them ſuch Reaſons, and Reſolution for his Undertaking, that they furniſhed him out a gallant Ship, and Prince *Theſeus* and many Nobles of *Greece* accompanied him: So that after long ſailing they found the Iſland, by what had been deſcribed to them; yet no ſooner had they landed, but a Giant, Servant to *Philotes*, who kept the Paſſage of the Rock they were to aſcend, came armed in a terrible threatning manner, to oppoſe them, ſternly demanding their Buſineſs: To whom *Hercules* reply'd, They came for Sheep, and were reſolved to have them. That may be, ſaid the Giant, if you have Gold enough. But we, replied *Hercules*, will have them at the Price your Maſter got them; that is, by the Sword. Upon this, the Giant blew an Horn, to give his Maſter Notice of the coming of Strangers, and laid on *Hercules*, who was foremoſt, very furiouſly: but *Hercules*, by main force put him back, e're *Philotes* could arrive, and with a full blow breaking his Shield, his Sword entred his Body, and laid him dead at his Feet.

This greatly amazed and grieved *Philotes*, ſo that he addreſſed himſelf againſt *Hercules* with a great Battle-Ax, and gave him ſuch a blow on his Shield, as made him ſtagger; but he ſoon recovered it, and a Mortal Combat began, and continued the remaining part of the Day, till Night coming on, parted them; and then coming to a Parley, they made a Bargain, That whoever was vanquiſhed, ſhould for the ſaving his Life, be the conquer'd Servant, during Life, but not to bear Arms, unleſs in his own Defence, and ſo favoured *Hercules*, that when the Combat was renewed, he pretending himſelf faint;

faint, and retiring, he no sooner got his Enemy from his Stand, or advantageous Ground; but coming at him like a Lyon, with many Wounds he brought him to beg his Life, and submit upon the aforesaid Conditions; and so refreshing themselves and lading their Ship with Ews and Rams, taking *Philotes* with him, who loved and served him ever after, he returned towards *Greece*.

Hercules, in his way home, happening by cross Winds to be driven in at the Port of *Troy*, understood, That by the Directi ns of the Oracle, to stay a Plague that had happen'd, upon the Account of King *Leomedon*'s taking the Money out of the Temple of the *Sun*, and the Sea, to build the City, and not repairing it at the time appointed, a Virgin, by Lot, was to be fastened to a Rock, to be devoured by a Sea-Monster, till he could be destroyed by the force of one Man, and that at that time the Lot was fallen upon *Exiony* the King's Daughter, who was conducted by a number of her weeping Friends; *Hercules* complementing them, and saluting the King, promised to undertake this great Exploit, resolving to vanquish the Monster, or die for the Princess's sake, desiring some massie Bar, or Club of Iron might be given him, wherewith to defend himself; and although they thought this a vain Undertaking against so huge and cruel a Creature, yet the King and People consented, with Promise of great Rewards; the King promising, amongst other things, his choicest Horses; a mighty Bar of Iron was fetched from the Palace of *Illion*, which a strong Man of *Troy* could hardly carry on his Shoulder, yet *Hercules* swung it round his Head with Ease, and ever after fought with it in his Battles and Combats: and again, solemnly taking leave of the beauteous Princess, who was fast bound to a Rock, and overflowed with a Deluge of Tears, he betook himself to a little Ship, but had not been therein long, but the Sea swell'd and roar'd terribly, and upon the rising of a Wave, the Monster shewed his Head, with fiery Eyes, and all the Aspects that might create Fear and Horror in any but *Hercules*, who was not at all daunted; but as the Monster approached for his Royal Breakfast, he gave him such a mighty blow on the Head, that he roared so loud, as made the Sea and Shore tremble, casting great Floods of Water out of his Mouth, insomuch that the Boat was full and sunk; yet it being near the Shore, *Hercules* stood to the Wast in Water, and as the Monster attempted to reach at the Virgin, he drove him back with a mighty Stroak, and laid so long upon his Head and Nose, that notwithstanding his often Attempts to swallow them both, which, by the mightiness of his Throat he had done, could he have

reached

reached them, he at last fell by a Blow that broke his Skull, and then the Sea withdrawing, left him, after many other blows, lifeless; when unbinding the Princess, *Hercules* presented her to her Parents, who received her with Tears of Joy, and would have given her to him, but he refused it, for the Love he bear *Megara*: However, he was received by the Citizens with Songs, Garlands, Musick, and Triumph, many Days feasting being held for this great Deliverance, the Virgins especially made great Joy, that they were freed from the fear of death, and thousands went to see the dead Monster with great Amazement, admiring the mighty Stroaks of *Hercules*'s breaking Bones, it was thought impossible any stroak could do; for so great was the Monster, that three hundred Horses could not draw him from the Shore.

CHAP. IV.

How he was shut out of Troy, *returns to* Thebes, *and marries* Megara; *overthrows a mighty Pirate, besieges* Troy, *takes it, and lays it waste the first time, carrying* Priamus, *the King's Son, away Prisoner.*

Hercules and his Greeks, upon this glorious Success, feasted Four Days in the Palace of *Ilion*; but on the Fifth they going a Hunting, at their Return found the Gates shut against them, and Entrance denied; *Leomedon* telling *Hercules* from the Wall, That he durst not trust him any longer in it, lest the People should revolt, and proclaim him King. *Hercules*, whose Vertue was above Treachery, was much enraged at this, and demanded however, the Horses he had promised him, but he refused to deliver them, upbraiding him with privately seducing, and stirring up his Subjects against him; tho' *Hercules* offered to prove his Innocency in Combate against thirty of the stoutest Men in the City, but none would answer him. *Hercules* finding himself so ill treated for the Good he had done, with Eyes full of Wrath and Indignation, he darted Fury on the King, and well was it for him that there was a Wall between them; when at length he spoke to this purpose: *Dost thou*, Leomedon, *False and Unworthy King! hold from me my Reward, purchased at the Hazard of my Life, and requite me with Evil for the Good I have done thee, and thy People? Therefore, by my Father* Jupiter *I swear, as I have delivered this City, so I will destroy it with so fearful a Destruction, as those shall be counted happy that fell by the Plague, or Sea-Monster.* And so turning his Back with Disdain upon those ingrateful Walls, he went on Board with his Friends, and by the way being set upon by *Ægeon*, a notable Pirate, with seven Ships, he thought to make a Prize, but found himself mistaken; for *Hercules* and *Theseus*, as soon as he had grappled

grappled, leaping aboard him, made such Slaughter, that the Sea was Red with the Blood of the Slain; so that finding himself over-matched, he would have fled, but *Hercules* with a Stroak of his Club, as he was leaping into a Boat, beat his Brains out; whereupon the rest seeing their Captain fall, in whose Prowess they chiefly relyed, threw down their Arms, and begg'd Mercy, so that their Lives were granted them, and *Hercules* carried the Ships with a great deal of rich Plunder to *Thebes*, where many Kings and Princes impatiently waited his Return, and did him extraordinary Honours, purchasing their Sheep at their weight in Gold; which occasion'd the Story of the Golden Fleece, ever bestowing Praises, and high Encomiums, upon these his first Glorious Enterprizes, and especially the Princess *Megara*, who was there with the King her Father, which above all pleased *Hercules*, for his Soul was center'd in her, and if he desired to do any Thing Great and Noble, it was for her Sake; and many Love Complements passed between them, by the Approbation of King *Creon*, who concluded he could not bestow his Daughter on a Nobler Person, and the Marriage had, no doubt, been at that time consummated, had not *Hercules* declared the Affront he received at *Troy*, and the Oath he had made, with all the Circumstances attending that Matter, as has been related. At which the Kings and Princes present were so troubled, that they could do no less than detest King *Leomedon*'s Ingratitude, declaring to assist him in taking Revenge to the utmost of their Power; so that a Royal Army was hastened into the Field, drawn from their respective Territories: during which space, great Feasts were held in *Thebes*, at which, *Amphytrion*, who now was reconciled to *Hercules* for the Fame and Renown he had gained, as also his Wife *Alcmena*, were present.

The Army being ready, the Kings and Princes embark'd with their Forces, and sailed to *Tenedon* a fair Port in *Phrygia*, in the Confines of *Troy*, and took the City *Larrisa* by force, which they ransacked and burnt; which Alarming the *Trojans*, they armed themselves, though with no great Stomachs, as knowing the Power and Might of *Hercules*; yet being encouraged by their King, they marched into the Field after him, to prevent, if possible, the threaten'd Ruin; and having assembled about Thirty thousand of his Men, being overjoyed to see such a Number, he told them the Danger they were in, and encouraged them after the best manner, and by his Speech having revived their Spirits, they resolved to go to Battle: so that all Things being set in Order, and the bloody Blast being sounded, they joyned with great Fury, saying, they would live and dye with their King; and indeed they fought with Great Courage, till the invincible *Hercules*, with his irresistable

Club, broke their Ranks and beat down all before him, dealing Death around him in a terrible manner; which made the *Trojans*, as if Fate had oppoſed them, murmur at their King's unfair Dealings with *Hercules*, ſaying, *He ought to deliver the Horſes he promiſed*: But he refuſing, the Battle went on with much Effuſion of Blood. *Leomedon* in this Conflict fought deſperately, often rallying his Men in their Confuſion, but *Hercules*, *Theſeus*, and *Amphytrion* did Wonders; ſo that the advanced Party of the *Trojans* being in a Manner routed, *Priamus* Son to *Leomedon*, came up with Thirty thouſand Recruits, ſo that the *Greeks* in their Purſuit were put to a Stand; young *Priamus* doing Wonders in the Action, overthrowing *Theſeus* and many others of Note; but breaking through the Battle on the other ſide, and finding *Hercules* deſtroying his Men in a terrible manner, they encountred very furiouſly, as if they two intended to end the Combat; but *Hercules* ſoon beat him from his Horſe with a mighty Stroak, inſomuch that he lay ſtunned, and was taken Priſoner, not knowing what had befallen him, and in fine, the *Trojan* Army was beaten, and *Leomedon* fled to the City, and the *Greeks* entered pell-mell with the *Trojans*, ſo that a great Slaughter enſued. *Hercules* being the foremoſt of the *Greeks*, kept the Gate 'till his Soldiers entred, ſlaying all before them; ſo that King *Leomedon* taking with him his Daughters *Exione* and *Antigonia*, fled by a back way, carrying with him his Jewels and richeſt Treaſure, leaving the reſt to the *Greeks*, who conſumed the City to Aſhes, levelled the Walls, and bore great Spoils at their returning in this Triumph to *Greece*.

CHAP. V.

How Hercules *killed the Lyons of* Nemea; *and ſacrificed the Tyrant* Buſiris *in* Egypt; *with other Glorious Atchievements.*

JUNO ſtill bearing an inveterate Hatred to *Hercules*, and finding her former Attempts ſucceſsleſs to deſtroy, reſolved upon thoſe more dangerous, though in the Sequel they redounded to his Glory: For inſinuating an Acquaintance with him under a feigned Guiſe of good Will, ſhe perſwaded him to undertake the Combat againſt three Monſters and no leſs furious Lyons, who had lately taken Poſſeſſion of the Foreſt of *Nemea*, and devoured all that paſſed that way, inſomuch, that the Country thereabout lay waſt, the Ruſticks and Travellers ſlain. This, although at his very great Peril, he promiſed to undertake, and after he having ſeen the fair Princeſs *Megara*, whoſe Charms and Perſwaſions,

sions had not Power to alter his Resolution, neither her Tears nor the Command of *Euristeous* had over him hindred the Enterprize; his Plea of Promise and Archievement of Glory being stronger, he went armed and furnished for that dreadful Encounter, accompanied with *Philotes* his sworn Companion in all Adventures; and coming into the Forest, found a Shepherd, named *Melarcus*, on a Tree, where he had climbed for his Safety, and lived many Days on the Fruits and Leaves, who warned him of his Destruction, if he approached any farther; telling him, the Lions had devoured his Flocks and all his Family, and that that was his only Refuge; but they had little Time to parley e'er the Lions greedy of Prey, burst from their Dens with horrible Roarings, with great and fiery Eyes glazed on him; but he not dismayed, set his Club to the Tree and drew his Sword, whilst *Philotes*, terrified with the Sight, got up the Tree where the Herdsman was, to observe the Combat: the greatest, almost as big as an Elephant, came first at *Hercules* with open Mouth and Paws, thinking to devour him, but he with a mighty Stroke of his Sword fell'd him to the Earth; however, he recovered, and fetching a deadly Leap, met the Point of his Sword in his Throat, and the Push being followed, reached his Heart, that with a terrible Roar, which made the Forrest shake, he fell dead to the Earth; the other two perceiving this, came on furiously, and e'er he could recover his Sword, wounded him in divers Places, so that the Blood flowed in Abundance; when finding his Sword would not pierce their Skins, though he laid on mighty Stroaks and that one of them pulled it out of his Hand by main strength; after he had broken the others Leg, he betook him to his Club of Iron, which soon ended the Combat; for giving a mighty stroak, he fell'd his most eager Assailant, and leaping upon him, strangled him with his Hands, and soon dispatched the other maimed Lion: Then he called *Philotes* and the Herdsman, by whose Help, he flead them, and wore the impenetrable Skin of the biggest for his Coat of Armour ever after.

Malicious *Juno* finding this added to his Glory, resolving further Mischief when he returned in Triumph with the Spoils of the Lions, in a flattering Manner, prevailed with him for to undertake the destroying *Busiris* King of *Ægypt*, a cruel Tyrant who murdered his Subjects, and shedded Blood like Water, delighting in nothing more; insomuch, that a great Draught fell upon the Land, and occasioned a grievous Famine, so that the Priests enquiring at the Oracle the Occasion, they had for Answer, That they should not shed the Blood of the *Egyptians*, but the Blood of Strangers; of which the Tyrant having Notice, although a Stranger himself, which was the Meaning, that his Blood

should be shed as an Attonement, and so he destroyed many worthy Persons, and amongst them, some Noblemen of *Crete*, of *Juno*'s Lineage. *Hercules* having made himself Armour of the Lion's Skin, passed into *Egypt* with a slender Company, and coming to *Memphis* with *Philotes*, desired Admittance, but he scarce was entred, e'er the Tyrant had Notice that Strangers were entred, and with his Bloody Guard he came forth to seize them for Sacrifice: But *Hercules* with his Club fell'd him to the Earth, and slew many about him, insomuch that the City was in an Uproar; but having made heaps of Slain about him, and assuring those that resisted not, of Pardon; the Citizens were overjoyed, and desired him to Sacrifice the Tyrant, as he had done many thousands of innocent Persons, and intended to do to him, had he overpowered him; and thereupon *Hercules* taking him up, carried him crying out and roaring to his Assistants for Help, to the Temple, and there sacrificed him; upon which the Drought ceased, and the Land immediately grew fruitful, so that the People worshipped *Hercules* as a God, and declared him their King: But he desirous to return to his own Country, constituted a Lieutenant, and was upon his Arrival welcomed by all except *Juno*, who wished his Miscarriage, and grieved at his happy Success.

CHAP. VI.

A farther Consideration of Hercules's *Love, and how he fought with and killed a great Number of Gyants that ravished Queen* Hippodamia.

UPON his Return, the Beauty of the Princess *Megara* came into his Thoughts, and walking pensive in the Garden, he found an Opportunity to break his Mind to her, and she not seeming Coy, but as deeply in Love as himself, he got *Euristeous* and *Amphytrion* to speak to King *Creon* her Father, who with Joy accorded to the Marriage: When to render *Hercules* more Glorious, the Nobles of *Iconia* having heard of his Fame, came to present him with the Crown of that City and Territories, so that he prayed King *Creon* to Knight him, which was accordingly done, and in the Tilts and Tournaments on that Occasion, he bore away the Prize and Victory, none being able to stand against him except *Jason*, whom for his Valour he ever after loved, and chose as his Companion.

Great was the Feasting on this Occasion, and at the End of it, *Pirothous* one of the Princes then present, desired the Company to be at his Wedding at *Thessalonica* with a fair Princess named *Hippodamia*, to which they consented, and so the Marriage between *Hercules* and *Megara* was consummated to both their Content and Joy.

The

The appointed time of *Pirotheus* his Wedding being come, *Hercules*, *Philotes*, *Theseus*, *Jason*, and other Nobles of *Greece*, went thither, where they found a very great Assembly of Noblemen and Ladies, and amongst others, a Crew of Centaurs, a Giant-like People under their Captain *Euricus*, who by the plenty of Wine, being got in their Cups, fell together by the Ears, so that divers were slain; this grew to so great an Insolency, though *Hercules* and others perswaded them to Peace, that *Euricus* rising from the Board, Armed about sixty of his Men, with Arms secretly brought for that purpose, and whilst the Company were in Confusion, rushing in, took away the Bride by force; but it was no sooner known by the Cries of her Women, but *Hercules*, *Jason*, *Theseus*, and *Pirotheus*, put on Armour to pursue them; *Hercules*, who was the swiftest of Foot run foremost with marvellous Speed, and when the Centaurs saw him, they stayed, resolving to dispatch him; but he came no sooner within Shot of them, bending his Bow, but he killed *Grinius* a terrible Giant, and divers others, not spending an Arrow in vain, as being the most exact Marks-man in the World; but his Arrows failing him, they all came upon him to revenge their Friends, so that he was hard beset by many a furious stroak; yet he dealt such mighty Blows with his Iron Club, that at every Stroak he laid one or other dead, till in the End his Friends coming up, the rest despairing of Success, fled, except *Lincius*, who begged his Life and was made Prisoner; and by this means the fair trembling Lady was rescued to the great Joy of her Husband; and the Feast was renewed for many Days, every one praising *Hercules*, as the Miracle of Valour and Goodness.

CHAP. VII.

How Proserpina, *Wife of* Orpheus, *was ravished by* Pluto, *and carried to* Hell; *from whence she was rescued by* Hercules, *who brought away* Cerberus *the Porter of* Hell.

THE Fame of *Hercules* now spreading it self through the World, a strange Adventure happened to add yet more to his Renown, for so it fell out a little before the Wedding of *Pirotheus*, that *Pluto*, the Son of *Saturn*, and King of the *Molosse*, a cruel People, called *King of Hell*, from the dark Situation of his City, built between dreadful Rocks and Mountains, or rather for his Wickedness and Cruelty, and of those also that were his Companions, who lived by Robbery and seeking after his accustomed Manner for Booty, sailed with his Company so long, that at last he arrived on the Coast of *Sicily*, when coming on Shoar, he met with great Mirth and Sports, with Musick and

Dancing,

Dancing, after the manner of the *Sicilians*; he viewed the Country, and found it exceeding fair, but coming to the Temple, he there caſt his Eyes on a Beautiful Lady who ſate by Queen *Ceres* her Mother, Queen of the Country, making a Garland for *Orpheus* a noble and wiſe Prince, who had married her, and upon the Account of which Marriage, thoſe Sports were made; the Beauty of this Lady ſo enflamed the Heart of the luſtful *Pluto*, that he could not refrain telling it to his Companions, and that he reſolved to poſſeſs her: wherefore going aſide, he ordered them to put on Armour, and over them ſuch Cloaths for Concealment, as were uſually wore at Weddings, and ſo they paſſed for Strangers that came to ſee the Sport, till *Pluto* obſerving his Opportunity, ſeized the fair Princeſs, and throwing her on his Back, piteouſly crying out for Help, bore her away: *Orpheus* and thoſe preſent ſeeing this unexpected Outrage, run to her Reſcue; but *Cerberus* a monſtrous Giant, and the reſt of *Pluto*'s Companions drawing their Swords, ſoon ſcattered them with great Slaughter and Effuſion of Blood, being ſurprized and unarmed; ſo that they bare away the lovely Prize, and putting her on Ship-board, ſet ſail for Hell; but the Princeſs, all bathed in Tears, could no ways be comforted, though the Monſter ſtrove what in him lay to do it.

Orpheus was ſo outragious with Grief and Sorrow, that he could not be comforted till Queen *Ceres* told him, That the ſtranger, who carried away her Daughters, was *Pluto*, King of Hell, and gave him notice where his City ſtood; then he reſolved to go thither to ſee, if poſſible, he could recover her; but deſpairing to do it by ſtrength, he went along, taking only his Harp, in playing on which, he was the moſt skilful Artiſt in the World; and with many Difficulties having found it out, he deſcended the ſtairs, cut in a Rock ſo narrow, that but one Man at once might paſs, and there found the terrible Giant *Cerberus*, who was the Porter, aſleep; but ſeeing his mighty Size and monſtrous ſhape, he thought it no boot to contend with him, and thereupon reſolving to charm him, he began to harp ſo melodiouſly, that the Giant awaking, became raviſhed at the ſound, and at his Requeſt conveyed him to *Pluto*'s Palace, who offered him any Thing he would demand, if he would harp ſo as to quiet *Proſerpina*, and make her leave off her weeping: This he undertook, and by ſigns made to her ſhe left off, and became chearful; which made *Pluto* rejoice, urging him to ask what he pleaſed, and ſwore that he ſhould have it; then with a ſad mournful Voice, he told him, that, *He was* Orpheus, *Husband to* Proſerpina, *and for her Sake had undertaken this Voyage at the Hazard of his Life, and humbly begged he might have her as his Reward.*

Pluto

Pluto ſtood mute at this, telling him, *He demanded the Thing he loved above all Things; but ſeeing he had ſworn it he ſhould have her, upon Condition they went together, and neither of them looked back till they were out of the City Gates.* This overjoyed them, but the Joy laſted not long; for *Orpheus*, thinking no Body near them, looked over his Shoulder, and there *Cerberus* being at their Heels, took away *Proſerpina*, and he was diſmiſſed with Threats of Death.

To procure ſome hardy Knight for the Reſcue of her Daughter, Queen *Ceres* came unto *Greece*, and engaged *Theſeus* and *Pirotheus* to undertake it; which when *Hercules* heard, he was marvellous ſorry, as knowing the great Danger and would have gone with them, but they would not admit it; ſo that when the Wedding was ended, they prepared their Arms and took Shipping; and *Hercules* doubting the Loſs of two ſuch noble Friends, followed them privately. They no ſooner began to deſcend the Stairs of Hell, but *Cerberus* rouzed, and came at them with a mighty Sword, threatning them in a cruel manner, when he knew what their Purpoſe was, and indeed with a fierce Stroak he ſlew *Pirotheus*, and had done the like by *Theſeus*, had not *Hercules* luckily come in, who with his Club laid ſo furiouſly at the Monſter, that after a cruel Fight, he made him reel againſt a Rock, and fall to the Ground; then he leaped upon him and bound him with the Chains he had prepared for others; and leaving him under the Guard of *Theſeus*, entred Hell, and went directly to *Pluto*'s Palace, where he found him with *Proſerpina*, and having upbraided him with his Cruelty and Treachery, he ſmote him on the Head with his Club, and laid him for dead on the Ground; then he beat down divers others, ſo that the Uproar was great, and *Proſerpina* trembled to ſee ſo much Bloodſhed; but it comforted her, when he told her the Deſign of his coming, and clearing the way, beating down all before him, he brought her out of that accurſed Place, and delivered her to her Husband and Mother, to their unſpeakable Joy: As for *Cerberus*, he preſented him to *Hippodamia*, who in Revenge of her Husband's Death, cauſed him to be mocked, tormented and cruelly ſlain: And thus Fortune favoured *Hercules* in all his daring Enterprizes.

CHAP. VII.

How in Hercules's *Abſence the City of* Thebes *was taken, King* Creon *ſlain with many of his Friends, and how upon his Return he entered it and killed the Tyrant that had poſſeſſed it, and put away his Wife* Megara.

Hercules, when that he went to Hell, had ſent *Linceus* the Centaur, Priſoner to *Thebes*, by *Philotes*; but as they were a ſailing, *Andromeda*

dromedas an Arch-Pirate set upon them with seven Ships, and when he understood that *Lynceus*, who was his Kinsman, was there Prisoner, he threatned all with Death; and though *Philotes* fought manfully, yet he was at last overpower'd, and at the Request of *Lynceus* had his Life saved. And when *Hercules* had destroyed the Centaurs who were his Kinsmen, *Andromedus* resolved in his Absence to revenge it on his Kindred in *Thebes*, and with 8000 Men worsted the *Thebeans* in a set Battle, killed King *Creon*, and wounded *Amphytrion*; so that following the flying *Thebeans*, they entered the City, filling all Places with Blood and Destruction, and having subdued it, *Andromedus* made *Lynceus* Governour, and departed.

Lynceus no sooner cast his lustful Eyes upon *Megara*, *Hercules*'s Wife, but he sought by all fair ways to win her to his Will, telling her, *Hercules* was dead in Hell; but she repulsed him with Anger and Disdain, marking him with her Nails, tearing his Beard and Hair, giving her self up to Cries and Tears, wished the Return of *Hercules*, who was not long wanting; for having dispatched his Business in Hell, he no sooner approached, but he understood what had happened in *Thebes*, which put him into a cruel Rage of vowing Revenge; and so impatient was he, that he could not stay to raise an Army, but putting a Gown over his Armour to conceal it, he enter'd the Gates; and attempting to enter the Palace, was stopped by the Soldiers; then throwing off his Gown, he lifted up a mighty Sword, cutting in pieces all that opposed him: *Lynceus* hearing the Uproar, thought it a Quarrel among his Soldiers, came down unarmed to part them; but *Hercules* having reviled him, gave him such a Blow as made a deep Wound and laid him in a Swoon, then he sprang out into the Streets, and upon Notice *Hercules* was come to rescue the City, the *Thebeans* armed, so that *Lynceus*'s Men were all put to the Sword. *Megara* having heard of what passed, came with open Arms to receive her victorious Lord; which when *Lynceus* now revived, saw, he cryed out, Meddle not with her, *Hercules*, she is my Concubine, I have had carnal Knowledge of her. At this false Accusation the Princess through Sorrow and Anger, fell into a Swoon, and before she could recover, *Hercules* giving too much Credit to the Traytor's Words, made a rash Vow never to meddle with her more; at which she so pined, that for Sorrow she soon after died. *Lynceus* escaped not, for *Hercules* immediately cut off his Head, and caused his Body to be cast into the Streets to be used despitefully. Then he released *Amphytrion*, who had been made a Prisoner, with divers others.

QUA-

CHAP. IX.

How Hercules *being refused Victuals at the Port of* Troy *in his Voyage with* Jason *for the Golden Fleece, destroyed the City a second time, slaying King* Leomedon. *How he conquered King* Atlas, *and the mighty Giant* Antheon.

Hercules hearing that *Jason* designed to go to *Cholcos* to fetch the Golden Fleece, resolved to accompany him; and in their way wanting fresh Provisions, they put in at the Port of *Troy*, demanding to have it for their Money; but King *Leomedon*, who had again either rebuilded or repaired the City, sent to forbid their Landing, and absolutely denyed them any Provision, saying, *He was an Enemy to the Greeks*: This so enraged *Hercules*, that he bid the Messenger tell him, *He was* Hercules, *and as he had once done, he would again destroy the City, and not leave one Stone upon another*: And so they departed, and proved successful in their Voyage; for *Jason*, by the Help of *Medea*'s Charms, overcame the fiery Bulls that defended the Fleece; and returning into *Greece* with these Spoils, *Hercules* highly commended *Jason*'s Valour, and contracted a strict Friendship with him. Then the Kings and Nobles of *Greece* being assembled, *Hercules* related the second Affront put upon him by *Leomedon*; whereupon they promised to aid him in ruining *Troy*, and with a great Army soon reached the desired Port, which so terrified King *Leomedon*, that at the first he thought to have fled privately, but seeing about 30000 of his Men arm'd in the Market-place, he took Courage and fled out of the City, so that the Battle was very hot and fierce, *Hercules* with his Club beating down whole Squadrons until he came to the Royal Standard where *Leomedon* fought, and having killed and dispersed his Guards, he at last gave him so great a stroak on the Head, that he fell down dead to the Earth: then the cry of Flight went through the whole *Trojan* Camp, and all was in the utmost Confusion imaginable: but the *Greeks* pursuing hard at their Heels, entred the City with them, and put the greater part to the Sword, taking the Plunder, and burning and levelling the City: And *Hercules* as a Reward to King *Telemon*'s Valour, who first entered the City, gave him the beauteous Princess *Exione*, Daughter to King *Leomedon*, and so with great Riches they returned into *Greece*. *Hercules* thus abounding in Valour and noble Exploits, had a great desire also to abound in Learning as much; and he being informed by *Philotes*, that one King *Atlas* who had a City on an exceeding high Mountain called by that Name, studied Astronomy, and had the best Library in the World, he resolved to be possessed of it; whereupon coming to the Foot of the Hill, he enquired of a Man that descen-

ded, whether the King was there? He told him, yes: then he aſcended, and coming into the Hall, found *Atlas* and his Men trying their Arms and aſſailing each other; for they heard they were to go to the Aſſiſtance of King *Antheon*, againſt whom *Hercules* had War, as will afterward appear; and getting Admittance, he told the King, *He was* Hercules, *who had conquered* Philotes, *and the Sheep of his Daughters, and was now come to conquer him and his Sciences*: this made *Atlas* chafe, and cry, *To Arms*; then was *Hercules* aſſailed on all Sides, yet lifting up his mighty Club, he ſo laid about him, that he made the Pavement ſlippery with Blood: *Atlas* was as Valiant as Wiſe, and gave *Hercules* many great Stroaks; but he being armed in his Lion's Skin, bore them off, and charging a full Stroak on *Atlas*'s Head, he brought him to the Ground, then he cryed out for Mercy: *Hercules* had no Intent to kill him, but carried him away Priſoner with his Books, and of him he learned to be the wiſeſt Aſtronomer in *Greece*.

Now *Hercules*, *Theſeus* and *Philotes*, ſailing by the Coaſt of *Ægypt*, found in the Port of *Alexandria* a great Army, and when *Affer*, the General, knew it was *Hercules* that was arrived, he went and caſt himſelf at his Feet for the Fame he had heard of him, and entreated his Aid againſt *Antheon* the mighty King of *Lybia*, and gave him the Reaſons for this Undertaking; ſo that *Hercules* and his Companions were contented to go with him, and whilſt *Hercules* was highly feaſted by *Affer*, he fell in Love with *Echee* the General's Daughter whom he obtained with the Conſent of her Father; and ſo they ſailed for the Coaſt of *Lybia*, landing at a City, where ſince *Carthage* ſtood.

When *Antheon* heard of this, he raiſed a mighty Power and came againſt *Hercules*, the Battle began with Shot of Arrows, ſo that many were ſlain on both ſides; but none were ſeen in Feats of Arms like *Hercules* and *Antheon*, who laid about them with great Fury, killing and beating down all that ſtood before them; inſomuch that there aroſe a mighty Cry, and it was not long e're theſe Champions met with ſo fierce an Encounter, that the Earth trembled, and the Blood flowed from either of their Wounds, and with a full Stroak *Hercules*'s Shield was broken; the mighty ſtrength of the Giant made *Hercules* more wary, ſo that watching his Opportunity he beat him very grievouſly, inſomuch that he retired amongſt the Ranks of his Men, and in the Evening cauſed a Retreat to be ſounded, leaving the Field covered with heaps of the dead Bodies; *Theſeus* and others doing likewiſe Wonders.

The next Day *Antheon* having recruited his Forces, he came on in two Battles, but was diſcomfited by the Proweſs of *Hercules*, *Affer*, and

and *Theseus*; and then flying into the Neighbouring Cities, were followed so close, that *Hercules* entered with them, putting Abundance to the Sword in the very Gate; so that *Antheon* seeing Fortune against him, fled privately, and was by a few *Moors* brought into *Mauritania*; and *Hercules* made *Affer* King of *Lybia*, from whom it is called *Africa*, and instituted the Laws of the *Greeks*; in the mean while *Antheon* gathering his scattered Forces, came to a third Fight, in the which he was overthrown and slain.

CHAP. X.

How Hercules *and* Theseus *fought against two Amazonian Ladies, and the Event of that Combat. How* Nessus *would have ravished* Dejanira, *and was killed by* Hercules, *and of the deadly Poyson he gave her under feigned Pretences of Friendship.*

IT happened about this time, a warlike Sort of Women called *Amazons* made great Conquests, bringing many People under them: these sent a Challenge, *That for the saving Effusion of Blood, two Ladies should fight against two Knights, and those that overcome should yield to the other.* This made *Hercules* smile, but to pleasure them in their Request, he sent them Word it should be done. The chief of these was *Sinope*, Queen of the *Amazons*, and she had two Sisters renowned as well for Beauty as Valour, who were marked out for the Combat; and *Hercules* chose *Theseus* for his Companion; so that meeting at the Place design'd, they cop'd together with their Spears very couragiously, so that their Staves shivered in the Air, and they remained unshaken; then they drew their Swords, when *Hercules* not using half his Force, made *Menelippa* to yield; but *Theseus* was hard put to it by *Hippolita*; but being ashamed to be overcome by a Woman, in the End he overcame her. However, out of Generosity, the *Amazons* were left free, with a Promise, That for the future, they would not tyrannize over Men, and that *Hippolita* should be given in Marriage to *Theseus*.

Now *Hercules* resolved to go unto *Calcedon*, to visit King *Oeneus*, where he fell in Love with his Daughter, the fair Princess *Dejanira*, whose Beauty had attracted many, and amongst many others, *Achelous* was one, who being a Powerful King, had often desired her in Marriage, with great Threats upon Refusal; but she loved him not: wherefore *Hercules* perswaded the King not to give her against her Will, but rather abide the Battle: to this, upon *Hercules*'s Promise to stand by him, the King consented, and in a mortal Battle *Achelous* was overthrown, and his Army mostly slain by the Prowess of *Hercules*, and he soon after pur-

 sued

sued him unto his own Country, and there slew him, and then espoused the Princess.

Long had not this Marriage continued, but *Hercules* desirous to go into his own Country with his fair Princess, took solemn Leave of his Father-in-Law and the Nobles of *Calcedon*; and coming into *Thessaly*, he was there to pass over the River *Hebenus*, where *Nessus* a Centaur plyed with a little Boat to carry over Passengers, there being no Bridge; but the Boat was so small that all their weights would have sunk it, that *Hercules* desired him first to carry over *Dejanira*, and then return for him: But the Treacherous *Nessus* by the Way contemplating her Beauty, got to the farther Shoar, and took her on his Back and fled; *Hercules* seeing this, drew his Bow and shot him, so that the Arrow went through him: at what Time he finding the Wound Mortal, and that his Life was at an End, pulled out a deadly Poyson, and dipping a Piece of his Garment in his Blood, gave it to *Dejanira*, with a flattering Complement, advising her, *That if* Hercules, *whom he knew to be very unconstant in his Love, proved so at any Time, she should boil it with one of his Shirts, and in wearing it, it would take him off from any new Love*: This she believed, and afterwards used it to the great Destruction of the mighty Conqueror. *Hercules* did then swim over, and found *Nessus* dead, and so went on with his Wife until he came to *Thebes*, where they were received very honourably.

CHAP. XI.

How Hercules *killed the mighty* Hydra *of the Fens of* Lerna; *and overcame* Gerion *in* Spain, *and likewise* Cacus *a mighty Tyrant, who vomited Fire and Flame*, &c.

Hercules impatient of Rest, no sooner heard that a mighty Monster infested the Fens of *Lerna*, and destroyed all that passed that way, but he resolved to go and destroy it: Upon his Arrival all the Country rejoyced, and the King of *Lerna* received him with much Gladness; and *Hercules* went armed with his Lions Skin, his Sword and Club; the Monster no sooner saw him, but she came forth horribly hissing, with seven Serpents Heads, spitting Fire and vomiting Smoak in a terrible manner; yet *Hercules* drawing his Sword, struck off divers of her Heads, in the Room of each immediately sprang up seven more, and with her prodigious Tail she gave him such Lashes as he was scarce able to stand on his Feet, but leaving his Sword and taking his Club, with many mighty Blows he laid her dead; then sent for the King and People, who crown'd him with Garlands of Triumph, as the Deliverer of their Country.

Hercules taking some Rest, no sooner heard that there was a cruel Tyrant reigning in *Spain*, who destroyed his Subjects, and shed their Blood like Water; but he resolved to go thither; *Dejanira* was sorrowful, but however he went; *Theseus*, *Hispan*, *Atlas* and *Philotes*, accompanying him, with many others of Note, and a great Army, and having overthrown the Tyrant's Fleet with an incredible Slaughter, landing, he routed his Army, though not without great Bloodshed on either side: for *Gerion* had two Brothers, mighty Giants, and himself superiour to both; the two Brothers were slain in the first Battle, whereupon *Gerion* fled: but coming to another Battle and doing great Mischief by Reason of his mighty Strength, *Hercules* assailed him, and with a Stroak of his Club beat out his Brains; whereupon his Men fled by Desarts and Mountains, and *Hercules* having taken the Spoils, founded the City of *Corogne* upon the Tomb of *Gerion*.

After this Conquest, and the settling of the Country to the Great Joy of the Inhabitants, he had Notice that King *Cacus* a great Tyrant reigned in *Carthaginia*, and with great Cruelty had slain the Kings of *Arragon* and *Navarre*; so that being desirous to rid the World of such a Monster, he recruited his Army and went thither. *Cacus* no sooner hearing of his Approach, but he gathered his People in a mighty Number and gave him Battle; but by the Prowess of *Hercules* he was overthrown with exceeding Slaughter, and fled with a slender Train to an high Rock or Mountain, whither *Hercules* followed him; but perceiving the Passage so steep, that but one at once could ascend it, he besieged it to starve him out; but *Cacus*, who was a Magician, escaped his Hands by swallowing a kind of a Spirit that by breathing made him seem all of a Flame, and so he descended like a fiery Tempest, and passed the Host of *Hercules*; but *Atlas* soon discovered the Fiction, yet was he gone too far before he could be pursued, and thus at this Time he escaped.

Cacus thus fled, became an Outlaw and Robber, living in a mighty Cave, and doing many Murthers; but *Hercules* finding him out, the Giant began to vomit Fire and Smoak as before, but *Hercules* leaped down without Fear, and after a long Combat, overcame and slew him, to the great Joy of the Country.

CHAP.

CHAP. XII.

How he overcame Eleven Giants in Battle, and rescued the Inhabitants of Cremonia. *How he overcame King* Pricus, *and took his City.*

HErcules resolving to rid the World of Tyrants, no sooner heard that Eleven Giants, the Son of *Neleo*, stiling themselves Kings of *Cremonia*, exercised great Cruelty over the People, but he resolved to go thither to subdue them, and set the City at Liberty; they had Notice of his coming, and sent one of their Number, *viz. Nestor*, to forbid him upon Pain of Death, entring their Territory, defying him to the Combat to fight them one after another; but he with an undaunted Resolution sent them word, *That he would fight them altogether to have the sooner done.* The Battle was fierce and terrible, but *Hercules* stood like a Bulwark, dealing deadly Blows that brought one or other of them to the Earth; so that in a short Time they were all slain, except *Nestor*, who fled when he saw the Discomfiture of his Brethren. The Citizens seeing their Tyrants overthrown, came and humbled themselves at the Feet of *Hercules*, desiring him to take upon him the Government, which he nominately did, being crowned King of the City, but left it in the hands of Governours.

It happened, that whilst *Hercules* stayed here, King *Pricus* came into *Italy* with a great Army to revenge the Death of King *Cacus* his Son-in-Law, and sent *Hercules* a Challenge which he accepted with Joy; so that both Armies being met, he entred the *Calledonian* Host with great Fury; himself breaking the Ranks, and like a Tempest bore down Horse and Men; so that they began to fly before him, as thinking him not Mortal; and retreated to the City of *Callidon*, and there shut themselves in; the which *Hercules* perceiving, pursued them with Horse and Foot so swiftly, that he soon besieged the City, but the Walls being high and strong, were not easily stormed or forced, insomuch that he resolved to try a Stratagem.

He put over his Armour a Coat, and as a Messenger he was let into the City, desiring to speak with the King; the Porters, by his Coat flying open, perceiving his Armour which he had on, seized him as a Spy, and without Resistance he suffered himself to be carried before the King, who no sooner cast his Eyes upon him, but he knew this Stranger to be *Hercules*, and cryed to his People to fall upon him; *Hercules* he had neither Sword nor Club, but seeing an huge Iron Bar on which a Tabernacle stood, he pulled it out by main Force, and so laid about him, that the Pavement was all covered with Blood, and the King, who had retired

retired to put on his Armour, coming in, laid at him, but *Hercules* with a mighty Blow beat him down dead: then was the Cry great in all Parts; for the *Greeks* at the same time, as it had been ordered, made a violent Assault upon the Walls, and were ready to enter; then *Hercules* issued out, and dying his Bar with fresh Blood, made to the Gate of the City, and breaking the Bars and Locks in sunder, let in his Men; whereupon the Citizens threw down their Arms and begged Mercy.

Hercules being now at Leisure, went to the Palace, where he found *Yel* the King's Daughter, attended by many of her Ladies, weeping most bitterly for the sad Calamity that had befallen her; she was so very beautiful in her Tears, that at the first sight *Hercules* became enamoured and began to comfort her; but she detested him, as the Murderer of her Father; so that he seeing no Good to be done, he set a Guard on her Chamber-door, and left her for to digest the many sweet Words he had given her; and when that her Sorrow began to abate, she at the Perswasion of a Lady that was her Governess, became more pliable, and in the End yielded to be his Wife.

CHAP. XIII.

How Hercules *fell in Love with the King of* Callidon's *Daughter, and overcame and slew* Diomedes *the Tyrant of* Thrace. *How* Dejanira *grew jealous of* Hercules, *and unawares sent him a Poyson'd Shirt. How he burnt himself, and she killed her self*, &c.

WITH the fair Prize *Hercules* returned into *Greece*, and coming to *Thrace* where he had Notice, that one *Diomedes* a cruel Tyrant and Thief reigned, and had under him Ten thousand Thieves, who put such he took to great Ransoms, and if they paid him not, he cut them to Pieces, and gave their Flesh to his Horses; the Man warn'd *Hercules* not to come near the Coast, but he overjoyed for to hear of this Adventure, would go in Search of him, nor could the Tears of *Yoel* dissuade him therefrom; and he understanding that *Diomedes* was gone on Hunting, he went to seek him, taking with him both his Club and his Bow, and *Philotes* with him; the loud Shouts and Cries of the Hounds soon directed him to the Place; the Tyrant no sooner saw him, but he menaced him cruelly with Death and Tortures for entring into his Dominions without his Leave; but *Hercules* with an undaunted Courage said, *He came to seek him to punish him for his Tyrannies and Wickedness.* He had then with him an hundred of his Thieves, who seeing that their Master, after some Blows was smitten down by *Hercules*, came running upon him with great Cries; but he so well defended himself, that he immediately laid Sixty of them Dead; and *Diomedes* coming unto the Fight again, he

he beat him so, that despairing of Success, he fled; but *Hercules* being swift of Foot, caught him, and having bound him Hand and Foot, after some Reproaches, used him as he had done others, casting him to the Thieves Horses, who devoured him alive, and afterwards he had the City of *Thrace* delivered to him; the Citizens greatly joyed at their Deliverance from the Cruelties of *Diomedes*; and there he put all Thieves to Death. *Hercules* now returning into *Lycia*, and there being now no more Combatants, Monsters, or such like Adventures, taken up with the Love of his new Bride, he dismissed all his Companions except *Philotes*. Now when *Dejanira* heard *Hercules* was in *Lycia*, and she not sent for, she began greatly to marvel, and prepared to go to him; but she no sooner knew that his Affections were taken up with a new Beauty, whom every one praised as the fairest in the World, but Jealousie tormenting her Heart, Tears flowed from her Eyes, she tore her Hair, beating her Breast till she fell in a Swoon, and coming to her self, sent forth dismal Cries, Lamentations and Complaints, and would not be comforted.

Then she thought of the accursed Gift of *Nessus*, and imagining all he said was true, boiled the poisoned Garment with one of his Shirts and sent it him by *Lycas* his Squire, desiring him to put it on and wear it for her sake, ignorantly fancying this would draw him to love her again, tho' the Woman that had washed it, dyed of the mortal Poyson. *Lycas* soon found his Lord in the Temple about to sacrifice, and humbly made his Present; *Hercules* said, *For her sake he would immediately put it on*; and so he did, but it was no sooner warm e'er the Venom seized him with such Horror; so that believing the Shirt to be the cause, he would have pulled it off, but could not; but by the tearing off the skin and flesh to which it stuck, his Sinews shrunk, and his Blood boiled: so that finding the Approach of Death, he in a Fury took *Lycas* by the Heels and dashed out his Brains against a Rock, then he tore up Trees by the Roots, forced down Pillars and brazen Gates in his Fit of Fury; but that being over and the Poyson had conquer'd him whom no mortal Force could resist, he gave his Arms to *Philotes*, and all that he had conquer'd: and then left it should be said, *A Woman had overcome him*, he laid his bloody Body down in the Fire he had prepared for Sacrifice, and there expired.

Dejanira no sooner heard the Great *Hercules* was dead by her Means, but she made such Lamentations as would make a Marble Rock relent: but she not thinking this sufficient, resolved to follow him, and with a Dagger pierced her own Heart.

Hercules after his Death, was by the *Greeks* worshipped as a God, and had Temples dedicated to his Honour, and a Star is now called by his Name.

FINIS.

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